

Appl. No. 10/802480
Reply to Action dated 5/3/2006
Page 10

REMARKS

Minor corrections have been made to the specification. Claims 1-2 and 4-6 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 3 has been amended. Claims 2 and 4-6 are drawn to a non-elected invention, and a divisional application may be filed. Claim 7 is new and finds basis in claim 1. Claims 8-10 are also new. Claim 7 is drawn to the elected invention and is generic to claims 8-10. Claims 2 and 7-10 are pending. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Examiner objected to claims 1 and 3 because of informalities. The Examiner's comments have been considered, and the claims have been appropriately amended.

35 USC 102(b) Rejections:

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokota (US 6,220,623). The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al. (US 6,079,732).

Yokota discloses a side airbag device having an air bag and a casing such that the casing includes 6 mounting portions 3 with holes 3a therein. Projecting portions 4a of air bag 4 are clamped inside the respective mounting portions 3 of casing 2.

Nakajima discloses structure for occupant protective apparatus for a vehicle wherein an air bag 16 is folded inside a casing 26. Air bag 16 has a fin-like bag fixing portion 16D. Two case fixing portions 26A extend in such a manner to cover the obverse and reverse surfaces of the bag fixing portion 16D. The fin-like fixing portion 16D and the two case fixing portions 26A are fastened between attaching portion 88A and pillar inner panel 34 with nut and bolt combination 96 (see Fig. 5).

The occupant restraint system of claim 7 requires a belt formed from a first extending portion extending from the air bag and from a second extending portion extending from the air bag cover. The first and second extending portions are fastened

Appl. No. 10/802480
Reply to Action dated 5/3/2006
Page 11

together with a sewing so as to form the belt with the first and second extending portions extending away from the sewing. Neither of the references disclose first and second extending portions from the air bag and the air bag cover such that they are sewn together to form a belt. Consequently, the system of claim 7 is not anticipated by the references.

The system of claim 7 has the advantage that since the first extending portion of the air bag and the second extending portion of the air bag cover are connected by a sewing, a deviation between mounting portions is hardly generated upon fixing the air bag to the roof, and it is easy to fix thereof. Furthermore, if the air bag is twisted, since the extending portion of the air bag and the second extending portion of the air bag cover are connected, any twist of the second extending portion of the cover is surely transmitted to the first extending portion of the air bag. Then, the distance between the extending portions is surely reduced, and it is easy to find the twisted state as shown in Fig. 7.

Claim 7 finds basis in claim 1 and, for example, page 7, lines 17-23.

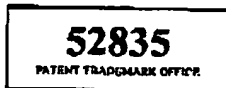
35 USC 103(a) Rejections:

The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious on consideration of Yokota (US 6,220,623). The Examiner further rejected claim 3 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious on consideration of Nakajima et al. (US 6,079,732). Claim 3 depends from claim 7 and for that reason is patentable. Applicant does not acquiesce in the independent rejection of claim 3, but further distinction of it at this time is not needed.

Claims 8-10 are new. Claim 8 finds basis at page 12, line 22 to page 13, line 14 and Fig. 11. Claim 9 finds basis at page 13, line 17 to page 14, line 1 and Fig. 12. Claim 10 finds basis at page 14, lines 10-18 and Figs. 13A and 13B.

Appl. No. 10/802480
Reply to Action dated 5/3/2006
Page 12

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early allowance of claims 3 and 7-10 is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165 at (612) 455-3802.



ang3
Dated: July, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902-0902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-3800

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Curtis B. Hamre", written over a horizontal line.

Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CBH/lad